Receipts by Jayalalitha under Amnesty Scheme

2329. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the Amnesty Scheme on Foreign Exchange announced by Government, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Ms. Jayalalitha received and demand drafts in her name through the Overseas Branch in Madras of the Bank of India;

(b) whether demand drafts in the name of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister under the said scheme were received in her name in any other Bank Account in the country; and

(c) if so, the total amount received through in this Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (c) : The requisite information cannot be furnished in view of the provisions of Section 3(1) of the "Remittances of Foreign Exchange and Investment in Foreign Exchange Bonds (Immunities and Exemptions) Act, 1991".

Seizures by Customs Officials in Madras

2330. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 15th October, 1992 Customs officials in Madras Airport were tipped off about the illegal import of silver and VCRs in the name of the Russian Culture Centre in Madras;

(b) whether the Enforcement Directorate opened the consignments received in the name of the Russian Culture Centre on the said date and found several thousand integrated circuits worth lakhs of rupees;

(c) whether such consignments had been coming in the past on bogus letter heads of the Russian Culture Centre claiming diplimatic immunity for these consignments;

(d) whether those subsequently arrested have confessed to the smuggling activities and disclosed the involvement of some prominent politician of Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, what is the status of the case today ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR : (a) to (d) Acting on information provided by the Enforcement Directorate, the officers of Madars Customs examined & consignment addressed to the Russian Cultural Centre, Madras on 15-10-1992 resulting in recovery and seizure of 450 Kgs. of silver granules valued at Rs. 35,32,500 and 15,500 integrated circuits valued at Rs. 10.85 lakhs and one National Radio cassette reorder. Investigations carried out so far reveal that some consignments may have been cleared, in the past, fraudulently, in the name of the Russian Cultural Department/Federation.

Two persons, namely, Shri Mohan Raj and Shri R. Jayaprakash (an employee of the Russian Cultural Centre, Madras), have been arrested. These persons have not disclosed the involvement of any prominent politician of Tamil Nadu.

(e) Further investigations are in progress.

Launching of Muslim Fund

2331. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL ALIAS MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some private persons have launched a fund in the name of Muslim Fund throughout the country and collected huge amount; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken by Government for ensuring safety and security of the public money ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) No such fact has come to the notice of the Government or Securities and Exchange Board of India.

(b) Does not arise.